

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention permits virtually the entire functionality of a computer system to be made accessible over a network such as the Internet or an Intranet.

5 More particularly, the present invention permits a computer system to be run as a "virtual machine" through a web page provided at a web site on the World Wide Web (WWW). The apparatus of the present invention includes a plurality of computers arranged in a wide area network (WAN) such as the Internet or an Intranet. At least one of the computers has at least one unique address designating a web site. A host computer system (which may or may not be one of the computers on the Internet) can be "posted" onto an "advertising" web page at the web site to permit other computers coupled to the Internet to interact directly with the host computer system. The computer "posted" on the web page is referred to as the "host" or "advertiser" computer, and computers accessing the host computer are referred to as "client" or "user" computers. Having the host computer posted on a web page creates a "virtual computer" that can be viewed and/or controlled by the client computers. Once the connection has been made between the host computer and one or more client computers, the web page is bypassed, i.e. the two or more computer systems communicate through the Internet without necessarily going through the web site supporting the "advertising" web page.

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